

**Indiana Criminal Justice Institute  
Youth Division  
Juvenile Law Commission  
Minutes – February 27, 2003**

Chair – Cheryl Sullivan

- 1) Definitions for the group:
  - Charge for this Commission
  - Major Purpose of the Commission
    - Legislature
    - Governor
    - Judiciary Functions
- 2) Questions posed to the group by the Chair:
  - What has been done in the past?
  - What are the group's short term goals?
  - What are the group's long term goals?
  - What would we like to accomplish by the end of the year?
- 3) Introductions of the group
- 4) Listing for members, a list sent around for changes (Listserv of group will be produced and distributed)
- 5) Background Information:
  - PowerPoint Presentation by Laurie Elliott of the Children's Law Center
  - Issues brought forth from the PowerPoint
    - a) Why is there use of the word criminal used
    - b) Aftercare programs – not sufficiently addressed
    - c) Juvenile Facilities – is there overbuilding, who determines need, is the geographic location appropriate
    - d) Youthful offender – who fits this category? adopting an act for those up to age 24 or 25
    - e) Family Court Models
      - One Judge-One Family*
        - ❖ Youth involved in multiple cases
        - ❖ Combine all cases
        - ❖ Helps to speed up process
        - ❖ Benefits parents by less travel and less court time
        - ❖ Judge is presented more information on the youth, parents, issues, and situation
        - ❖ More involvement by judge
        - ❖ Attorneys and families like this family court model

- ❖ Cannot be a one judge-one family if this family/child has been in court multiple times or if mediation would be a better choice
- ❖ A barrier to replication of this model is just getting the system worked out

#### *Case Tracking*

- ❖ Work with other judges to provide clarity of the cases
  - ❖ Judges sharing information
  - ❖ Combine cases but limited on how many cases you may hear
- f) Hospital Executed Paternity Affidavits do not take care of future issues such as visitation, child support, or custody.
  - g) Indiana Child Welfare Information System (ICWIS) manual system
  - h) Bureau of Family Protection Program (BFPP)
  - i) Indiana rate of recidivism

#### 6) Case Studies

##### A) State Mental Health System – Case #3 issues

- ❖ Role of community
- ❖ Is the system intervening soon enough
- ❖ Aftercare – follow up services/support
- ❖ Funding sources
- ❖ Wardship
- ❖ OFC will not get involved with CHINS but will pursue delinquency cases
- ❖ Eliminating labels

##### B) Caitlin - issues and concerns raised

- ❖ What can parents do?
- ❖ Parents do not want to involve the system or get their child in trouble
- ❖ Making a child move to delinquent status just to get services
- ❖ Loss of parental rights in the system
- ❖ No services/system in place as early intervention before child is put in the system
- ❖ Community Assessment System
- ❖ Find out more about the child – why is she rebelling
- ❖ Another name for status offenders/delinquents
- ❖ Find out what preventive services are available, make list available
- ❖ Blended funding – child should not have to fit into one category to get help, funding from several sources
- ❖ Find out what programs are offered for youth
- ❖ Find out what funding is available, how to get funding, where the funding is located
- ❖ Biggest issue is family problems – how to deal with these issues
- ❖ Create a model system with gap analysis once it is in place
- ❖ What is the intervention role, how do we design it

- C) Story of Dave – issues and concerns raised
- ❖ Role of the school system
  - ❖ How to get DARS to respond to the needs
  - ❖ Who should intervene
  - ❖ Labels at 18 years of age and up
  - ❖ What problems can be taken care of and once we determine problems how do we with these problems
  - ❖ Define community
  - ❖ Wherever the mother goes for help, let her be informed of other services available
  - ❖ Take truancy and run-aways seriously
  - ❖ S-5, responsibilities of the schools
  - ❖ Level of problems: school, mental health, DARS

Short-Term Goals (to be completed before next legislative session begins)/Long-Term Goals

Issues and concerns raised

- ❖ Impact of Truancy – view other truancy courts, Gaylon Nettles, and Johnson County early intervention program
- ❖ Authority of school with truancy act (statue change)
- ❖ Standard enforcement
- ❖ Define the policy better
- ❖ Expelling youth from school for missing school – provide a better punishment (change statue)
- ❖ If the best action is expelling a youth from school, there must be provision made for alternative schooling. This schooling must fit the needs of the youth. For example, a violent student should not be attending the same alternative school as a pregnant teen. Totally different issues.
- ❖ Type of control courts should have over parents
- ❖ Education neglect by parents – how should this be handled
- ❖ Confidentiality issues – Michigan's confidentiality system (same for adults and children)
- ❖ Mental Illness – how to deal with youth in need of mental health services
- ❖ Increased drug abuse, alcohol use, sexual dysfunctions

Next meeting: TBA

Suggestions for future meetings:

- Edit statements and findings at regular meeting
- Problem solving at regular meeting
- Use of meeting as work session
- Work on issues and do readings before meeting

